



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

May 26, 2006

News Release

ICE deports illegal alien convicted of kidnapping, 1st degree sex crime *Man is one of more than 600 criminals deported from area this fiscal year*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported a man to Mexico this week after he had finished serving sentences for kidnapping and first-degree attempted sexual conduct.

Domingo Penaloza-Cabrera, 36, a Mexican national, was handed over to Mexican authorities Wednesday evening at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Penaloza-Cabrera was convicted Sept. 14, 2001 in Hennepin County District Court of kidnapping and attempted first-degree sexual conduct. He was sentenced to 48 months in prison for the kidnapping and 43 months in prison for the sex crime, to be served consecutively. Penaloza-Cabrera was turned over to ICE May 22. He told ICE agents he had illegally entered the United States in 1999.



According to a findings-of-fact court document, Penaloza-Cabrera was at a Minneapolis nightclub on April 15, 2001, when he offered to give a woman a ride home. Instead of taking her home, he drove her to a party in northeast Minneapolis. The woman insisted on going home, but instead Penaloza-Cabrera drove her to the banks of the Mississippi River, where he sexually assaulted her, including forcible penetration.

Penaloza-Cabrera then grabbed a metal pipe, dragged the woman from his vehicle to the river and repeatedly struck her in the head with the pipe, yelling, "I want to kill you. You are going to die." Penaloza-Cabrera then held the woman's head under water four times. The fourth time, the woman went limp, feigning death. Penaloza-Cabrera left her in the river and fled in his vehicle.

The injured woman pulled herself from the river, and a man in a passing vehicle stopped to help, driving her to North Memorial Medical Center for treatment. On April 17, 2001, authorities arrested Penaloza-Cabrera after finding the victim's jewelry inside his 1993 Chevrolet Blazer.

“Minnesota residents can breath a little easier knowing this criminal is out of the country,” said Scott Baniecke, field office director for ICE’s Bloomington office. “ICE prioritizes cases that impact community safety, and this man is a prime example of the type of criminal we target for arrest and removal.” Baniecke oversees ICE’s detention and removal program for a five-state area that includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

Between Oct. 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, ICE deported 1,423 illegal aliens from the five-state area. Of that number, 627 had criminal convictions in addition to being immigration law violators. During fiscal year 2005, ICE deported 3,060 illegal aliens from the same geographic area, 1,368 of them with criminal convictions.

The removals part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America’s borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Penaloza-Cabrera, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.